



RIU 3.6.3 Animal handling elements of competency

Ver 1 15 June 2023

HORSES

Competency (Essential outcomes)	Performance criteria (The performance needed to demonstrate competency)
1. Observe and interpret basic body language of horses in different situations	<p>1.1 Distinguish a range of horse body language</p> <p>1.2 Recognise body language, including posture, facial features, and vocalisation, indicating a horse is relaxed in its surroundings</p> <p>1.3 Recognise body language, including vocalisation, posture, and facial features, indicating a horse is unsettled or in a state of agitation in its surroundings</p>
2. Identify areas of risk around horses	<p>2.1 Identify situations and behaviour that commonly lead to incidents and injuries when interacting with horses</p> <p>2.2 Recognise human body language and behaviour to avoid around horses</p> <p>2.3 Identify positive actions and behaviour that handlers can take to minimise risks when interacting with horses</p>
3. Describe indications of health and variations to normal health and behaviour in horses	<p>3.1 Describe normal health and behaviour of horses in terms of the signs (Range - movement, physical appearance, posture, appetite, general demeanour, social interaction)</p>
4. Prepare to handle horses	<p>4.1 Confirm work plan with supervisor</p> <p>4.2 Identify, prepare, and maintain horse handling areas, gates, and access routes</p> <p>4.3 Select, check, and prepare handling equipment (including but not limited to a crush) for use and report missing equipment, malfunctions and need for maintenance as required</p> <p>4.4 Recognise hazards in the workplace and report safety concerns</p> <p>4.5 Select and correctly fit personal protective equipment (PPE)</p>
5. Handle horses	<p>5.1 Identify horse according to instructions and observe horse body language and behaviour before approaching</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">5.2 Prepare halter and lead in hand prior to approaching the horse5.3 Approach calmly and catch horse using safe handling techniques, taking note of safety warnings on orange collars*5.4 Apply safe procedures when leading horse to work area and secure to suitable tie-up point5.5 Use safe handling procedures around other handlers and horses5.6 Inspect for abnormalities, cuts or damage, and report according to workplace practices
6. Safely load a horse into a crush	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6.1 Use safe handling procedures to load a horse into a crush6.2 Use safe handling procedures to unload a horse from a crush
7. Complete horse handling procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">7.1 Confirm security of area for release7.2 Ensure adequate clean water and feed at destination as required7.3 Prepare gates and access routes for horse departure7.4 Move horse to designated areas safely and with minimal stress in line with current university practice7.5 Remove halter and lead, assuming safe body position in relation to horse7.6 Clean and maintain handling areas and equipment and store surplus materials7.7 Report handling area maintenance requirements and equipment faults or malfunctions7.8 Dispose of horse residues and waste in accordance with environmental practices7.9 Record and report relevant information

*Some Charles Sturt University horses have orange collars with safety warning labels, such as 'Do not clip me', 'Do not hold my head tight'. These must always be adhered to.